of our land area is rapidly turning into desert and also that 70 per cent of all available water is polluted;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what are the other environmental findings in the report and the steps being taken in that context?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have identified the various environmental problems and are taking steps to solve them.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No. 65]

Review of Working of Government Departments

*256. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government recently undertook an exercise to review the functions of various Government departments with a view to streamline the working and avoid duplicacy of work; and

(b) if so, the results of such an exercise and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reviews toward rationalisation and further streamlining of the functioning of government departments is a continuing process. Illustrative lists of some recent steps taken in this direction were laid on the Table of the House on 6-11-86 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 322.

Briefcase Containing Bomb like Device in a DTC Bus

*257. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 408 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th November, 1986 and state what steps are being taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents as happened on 1st September, 1986 in Delhi where a briefcase containing a bomb-like device was found in a D.T.C. bus?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Steps like increased foot and mobile patrolling, intensive checking of vulnerable places, posting pickets at strategic point, vigilance at crowded places, surprise checking of vehicles, strengthening of border checkposts and holding of inter-State/inter-district meetings to exchange information about the movements of extremists, have been taken. Publicity is made through the media cautioning the people not to pick up unclaimed objects and t inform the police if they come across any unclaimed suspicious object.

Clearance of Irrigation Projects of Tamil Nadu pending with the Planning Commission

*258. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of minor and major irrigation projects of Tamil Nadu presently pending with the Planning Commission;

(b) date on which each report of these projects have been submitted;

(c) at what stage each project is pending for clearance; and

(d) what steps are being taken to clear these projects, expeditiously?